

Access to Capital

Key Takeaways

- Finding flexible sources of external credit is a consistent challenge for small businesses—and a priority for policymakers seeking to help small businesses.
- The emergency loans and grants the federal government made available during the pandemic helped keep many small businesses afloat—but small businesses continue to need access to capital.
- Online lenders and CDFIs play an important role in helping decrease the gap in capital access among business owners of color.



"48% of Black small business owners said they expect to take out a loan or line of credit for their business in 2022—yet just 19% were “very confident” in their businesses’ ability to access capital." - Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Voices national survey

Policy Options

- Renew the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan program
- Streamline, structure, and clarify loan application processes for small businesses.
- Continue to extend—and consider making permanent—the Community Advantage program.
- Consider ways to broaden the base of lender participation in the 7(a) loan guarantee program.